

***In the Claims:***

Please add the following new claim.

100. An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising an adenovirus tripartite leader (TPL) nucleotide sequence, said TPL nucleotide sequence comprising: first, second and third same TPL exons, said TPL exons selected from the group consisting of complete TPL exon 1, partial TPL exon 1, complete TPL exon 2 and complete TPL exon 3.

Please replace pending claim 1 with the following claim.

1. (Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising an adenovirus tripartite leader (TPL) nucleotide, said TPL nucleotide sequence comprising (a) first and second different TPL exons or (b) first, second and third same or different TPL exons, said TPL exons selected from the group consisting of complete TPL exon 1, complete TPL exon 2 and complete TPL exon 3.

Please replace pending claim 2 with the following claim.

2. (Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising an adenovirus tripartite leader (TPL) nucleotide sequence, said TPL nucleotide sequence comprising (a) first and second different TPL exons or (b) first, second and third same or different TPL exons, said TPL exons selected from the group consisting of complete TPL exon 1, partial TPL exon 1, complete TPL exon 2 and complete TPL exon wherein said TPL nucleotide sequence is operatively linked to an intron containing an RNA processing signal.

Please replace pending claim 3 with the following claim.

3. (Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising an adenovirus tripartite leader (TPL) nucleotide sequence wherein said TPL nucleotide sequence consists essentially of complete TPL exon 1 operatively linked to complete TPL exon 2 operatively linked to complete TPL exon 3.

Please replace pending claim 4 with the following claim.

4. (Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising an adenovirus tripartite leader (TPL) nucleotide sequence, said TPL nucleotide sequence comprising (a) first and second different TPL exons or (b) first, second and third same or different TPL exons, said TPL exons selected from the group consisting of complete TPL exon 1, partial TPL exon 1, complete TPL exon 2 and complete TPL exon wherein said intron is native adenovirus intron 1.

Please replace pending claim 5 with the following claim.

5. (Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising an adenovirus tripartite leader (TPL) nucleotide sequence wherein said TPL nucleotide sequence is shown in SEQ ID NO: 32.

Please replace pending claim 6 with the following claim.

6. (Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising an adenovirus tripartite leader (TPL) nucleotide sequence, said TPL nucleotide sequence comprising (a) first and second different TPL exons or (b) first, second and third same or different TPL exons, said TPL exons selected from the group consisting of complete TPL exon 1, partial TPL exon 1, complete TPL exon 2 and complete TPL exon further comprising a promoter and a nucleic

acid sequence which encodes an adenoviral structural protein, operatively linked to said promoter and said TPL sequence.

Please replace pending claim 12 with the following claim.

12. (Amended) An adenovirus vector packaging cell line comprising:

i) a stably integrated nucleic acid molecule, comprising an adenovirus tripartite leader (TPL) nucleotide sequence, said TPL nucleotide sequence comprising (a) first and second different TPL exons or (b) first, second and third same or different TPL exons, said TPL exons selected from the group consisting of complete TPL exon 1, partial TPL exon 1, complete TPL exon 2 and complete TPL exon wherein said TPL nucleotide, and

ii) an operatively-linked promoter and a nucleic acid sequence which encodes an adenovirus structural protein,

wherein said TPL sequence consists essentially of a first TPL exon operatively linked to a complete second TPL exon operatively linked to a complete third TPL exon.

Please replace pending claim 21 with the following claim.

21. (Amended) The cell line of claim 12 wherein said cell line supports the production of a recombinant adenovirus vector genome by complementation of a deficient viral gene in said vector genome.

Please replace pending claim 22 with the following claim.

22. (Amended) The cell line of claim 21 wherein said cell line expresses an adenovirus early protein gene and a fiber gene.

Please replace pending claim 23 with the following claim.

23. (Amended) The cell line of claim 21 wherein deletion of said deficient adenovirus gene is complemented by the expression of said gene under the control of an inducible promoter.

Please replace pending claim 47 with the following claim.

47. (Amended) The method of claim 41 wherein said nucleic acid molecule is a nucleic acid molecule comprising an adenovirus tripartite leader (TPL) nucleotide sequence, said TPL nucleotide sequence comprising (a) first and second different TPL exons or (b) first, second and third different TPL exons, said TPL exons selected from the group consisting of complete TPL exon 1, partial TPL exon 1, complete TPL exon 2 and complete TPL exon 3 and said molecule further comprises a sequence encoding adenovirus fiber protein.